

SOME CRITICISMS.

Commenting upon the position taken by the STATE JOURNAL in the matter of ethical advertising, the *Pennsylvania Medical Journal* says:

This is the true ethical spirit and the profession of California should see to it that their courageous editor does not "go broke." All mankind is in the pursuit of happiness and all men discover, sooner or later, that the acquisition of money alone is not the surest means toward the universal goal. We can assure the editor of the California State Journal of Medicine that to publish an ethical journal will bring him abundant returns for his labor, though not likely in a financial way. The writer has been engaged in the publication of two medical journals for sixteen years, that never knowingly accepted an advertisement of a patented or proprietary medicine, and while little lucre has accumulated he was never quite "broke," though sometimes the margin was so narrow that escape seemed almost providential. We make this statement for the reason that our Western co-laborer has overlooked the existence of *The Pennsylvania Medical Journal*, the first journal published by a State Medical Society, and *The Pittsburg Medical Review*, its predecessor, equally ethical in character, not to mention the *Illinois Medical Journal*, representing the transactions of the Illinois State Medical Society, which has existed for two or three years on a strictly ethical basis.

By making an examination of the two journals referred to it will be found that Dr. Koenig makes no idle claim in the matter of ethical advertising, either for his own excellent Keystone State publication or for his neighbor of Illinois. The point the STATE JOURNAL desired to make was that far too many medical publications owe their existence wholly to advertising patronage, and that little or no restriction is observed in the matter accepted.

CALIFORNIA STATE JOURNAL OF MEDICINE, No. 1 of Vol. I of this new medical journal is on our table. It is published by the State Medical Society of California, through a publication committee.

We look through the Constitution of the State Society and find, to our surprise, that it has no committee on Medical Jurisprudence!

It has a standing committee on Nervous and Mental Diseases, and one on Medical Legislation and Education, otherwise it ignores forensic medicine. * * *

Should there not be attention paid to the proper education of the medical man as to his rights, powers and duties as a medical witness? And to the learning requisite to make him a competent medical expert in medico-legal cases? What about railway and military surgery?—*Medico-Legal Journal*.

(Mr. Bell answers his own questions quite fully by referring to the standing committees on Medical Legislation and Education and on Surgery and Anatomy. Medical education embraces medical jurisprudence just as does surgery embrace treatment of railway accident cases and casualties of the battle field.—Ed.)

THE BUBONIC PLAGUE.

(From *Northwest Medicine*, Seattle.)

During the past two and a half years, while the plague has been known to exist in San Francisco and the country at large has witnessed the discreditable efforts of the State and city officials to blind the eyes of the world to the facts, proven by local, Federal, and other scientific workers, the fears of its intro-

duction into other sections have been allayed by the confinement of the dreaded disease to San Francisco and its immediate vicinity. Yet uneasiness has constantly prevailed on the Pacific Coast and speculations have been ventured as to when and where it would next appear. Now it seems that the inevitable has occurred, and the claim of its existence in certain Mexican cities, imported directly from San Francisco, remains unchallenged.

If it is true, as has been stated, that the plague is most prone to follow the routes of the shipping, no portion of the coast is subject to greater menace than that tributary to Puget Sound, with its extensive maritime connection with the California metropolis. In view of the existing situation, it is useless to vent our spleen on those whose misguided disregard of the real facts of the disease has helped to foster and spread it. We must face the possibility of its introduction into the northern cities and be prepared to cope with it. The British Columbia authorities have already anticipated us in establishing active measures to meet future contingencies. The Provincial government early acquainted itself with the true situation by sending a medical representative to San Francisco to study the disease in person, and the cities across the border are already prepared to dispose of cases that may arrive and to establish a quarantine whenever it seems advisable.

Heretofore we have seemed content to exclaim, "we are in no real danger, our Federal quarantine officers will protect us against an invasion of the disease." But since it has appeared at a distance from the original focus, the State and local boards of health on the northern coast have realized that they, too, must be armed and ready for a possible struggle with it.

Whatever general or specific measures may be adopted for averting the reception of infected persons, we wish, in a forcible manner, to call the attention of boards of health of the Puget Sound cities to the fact that there is absolute ignorance of the disease, as concerns personal knowledge, on the part of the medical profession of the Northwest. While we are familiar with the symptoms and treatment of all ordinary diseases, the previous absence of this from our land has prevented the actual study of the plague. In no aspect of the affairs of life is experience of such vital moment as in medicine. It decides the selection of a practitioner by the patient, assures the success of the former, and often turns the scale for life or death. Is it not, therefore, incumbent upon the health authorities at this time to secure a familiarity and experience in bubonic plague, that will serve as a protection against a future incursion of the disease?

We feel it the duty of the cities of the Puget Sound district, especially the larger ones as Seattle, Tacoma and Everett, to commission a competent physician to visit San Francisco and institute a personal study of the plague, where alone it can be investigated in our own land, thus familiarizing himself with its bacteriology, symptomatology and treatment, according to approved methods in vogue to-day. The necessary expense incurred may well become a profitable investment if the first case to reach our shores can thus be early detected, isolated and properly treated.

These suggestions are intended to cast no strictures upon any inspection or quarantine measures that may be adopted. The danger is sufficiently imminent to warrant the anticipation of the approach of the disease, should it escape preventive measures and appear in our midst. Such action is comparable to that of the successful merchant, whose prosperity demands the expenditure of time and money to forestall the fluctuations of the market rather than risk pecuniary loss. But we are now considering the protection of the most precious thing on earth—human life—to accomplish which no sacrifice is too great and no financial expenditure unwarranted, however extensive.